

D<sup>2</sup> 10. (Twice Amended) A polynucleotide encoding the KGF-2 protein according to Claim 25.

16. (Twice Amended) A method comprising the step of isolating a keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) protein from a host cell containing a polynucleotide of Claim 10 cultured under conditions allowing the expression of the KGF-2 protein by said host cell.

17. (Amended) The method according to Claim 16 comprising the step of modifying the isolated KGF-2 protein to generate a compound capable of stimulating the production of epithelial cells.

18. (Twice Amended) A method comprising the steps of:

- (a) culturing a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell containing a polynucleotide of Claim 10; and
- (b) maintaining said host cell under conditions allowing the expression of a keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) protein by said host cell.

D<sup>3</sup> 19. (Twice Amended) The KGF-2 protein according to Claim 25 which is the recombinant expression product of a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell containing an exogenous polynucleotide of Claim 10.

20. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the KGF-2 protein according to Claim 25 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

21. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) protein isolated in accordance with the method of Claim 26 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

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wel. 22. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) protein isolated in accordance with the method of Claim 27 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

25. (Twice Amended) A keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) protein selected from the group of consisting of:

(a) a KGF-2 protein consisting of residues 66 through 208 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and

D<sup>3</sup> (b) a KGF-2 protein consisting of residues 66 through 208 of the amino sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 and an N-terminal methionine.

26. (Amended) The method of Claims 13, 14 or 15 further comprising isolating a keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) protein from said cultured cells or said nutrient medium.

27. (Amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising after step (b) the following step (c):

(c) isolating the KGF-2 protein expressed by said host cell.

Please add the following claims:

D<sup>4</sup> 28. The KGF-2 protein according to Claim 25, wherein at least one domain of the constant region of the heavy chain of human immunoglobulin is fused to the C-terminal end of the KGF-2 protein.

#### REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that claims 6-8, 10-22, and 25-27 were pending at the issuance of the instant Office Action. Claims 6-8, 10, 16-22, and 25-27 have been amended and new claim 28 has been added. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification. Support for new claim 28 can be found, for example, at page 9, lines 3-17 and page 21, lines 19-32. No new